

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET INFORMATION 36TH DISTRICT COURT (60)

MISSION

The mission of the 36th District Court is to administer justice with fairness, equality and integrity, resolve matters before the court in a timely manner with trained and motivated staff, and provide courteous and prompt service in a manner that inspires public trust and confidence.

DESCRIPTION

The 36th District Court is a limited jurisdiction court serving the City of Detroit. The court has exclusive jurisdiction in all litigation up to \$25,000 and handles small claims and landlord/tenant proceedings. The 36th District Court handles a large volume of civil infraction traffic violations, drunk driving, misdemeanor and felony arraignments, and some parking violations, among various other court responsibilities. Criminal jurisdiction includes all misdemeanor criminal offenses and preliminary examination of felony offenses. Annual case filings exceed 450,000, the majority of which are handled in the Traffic and Ordinance Division. Michigan's largest limited jurisdiction court, the 36th District Court has 31 judges, 6 magistrates, and approximately 464 employees at a single location in downtown Detroit. The 36th District Court is one of the busiest courts in the nation. On a monthly basis more than 160,000 citizens conduct business at the court and in excess of 65,000 telephone inquiries are received.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

In fiscal year 2002-03 the 36th District Court will continue with the implementation of its strategic plan, called "The Direction for Change, 36th District Court, 2005 Strategic Plan". The primary focus of the court is on updating and improving technology, putting court procedures on a website to allow for electronic filings, and reviewing, reengineering and streamlining work processes.

Technology within the court has to be updated and improved in order to keep up with the added workload. During the next year, the 36th District Court will purchase three video conferencing systems to provide video arraignments for felony cases from all police precincts on a regularly scheduled basis. Currently, arraignments are done from two precincts at 1:00 p.m. daily.

The court will continue to provide free legal support to indigent individuals who commit misdemeanor offenses. Funding has been provided to pay for services provided by a legal services group to represent these individuals who otherwise would have financial constraints to support themselves.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In order to continue to provide prompt service delivery to our customers, the court will continue to recruit and maintain the highest quality staff and provide training, technology, resources and support to meet the needs of internal and external customers.

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The court is also working on providing electronic case filing and access to court information by establishing additional kiosks, internet access, and an interactive voice response system.

To improve access to the court, the focus will be on the development of language aids to assist the public with court procedures. We plan to put court procedures on a website and allow for electronic filings. Court hours have been extended on Wednesdays until 6:30 p.m. to allow citizens to pay tickets after the normal time of 4:30 p.m.

The court is committed to reviewing and eliminating procedural access barriers. A task force was established to study parking for employees and the public. A consultant was contracted to assist the court in the reengineering of some processes and procedures.

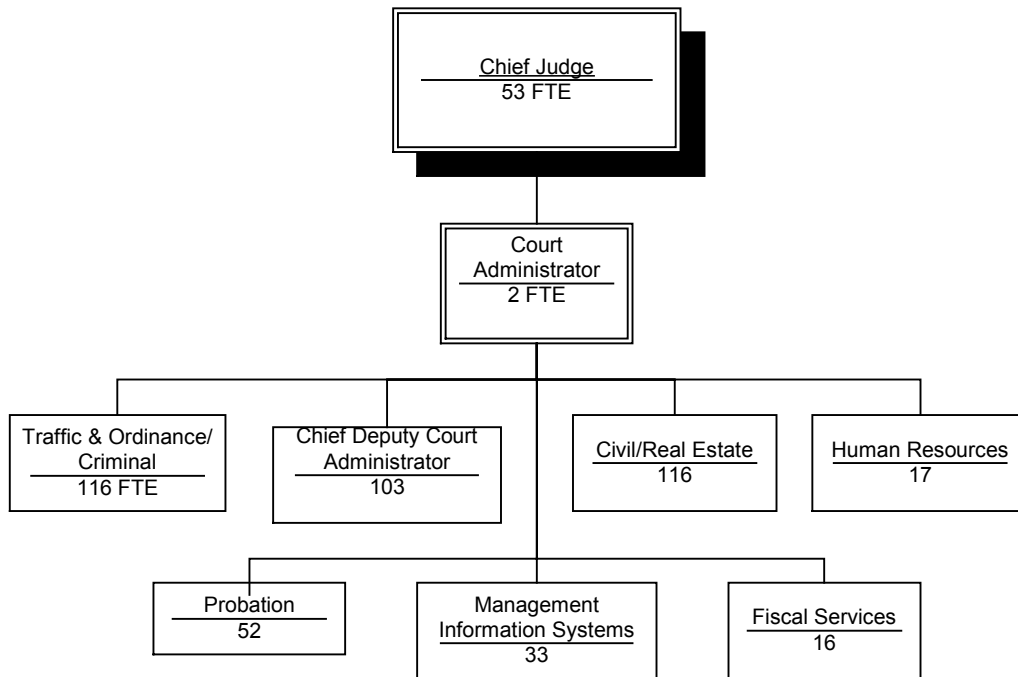
To enhance external relations and public outreach, awareness, and education, the 36th District Court will evaluate the present automated telephone system, make necessary improvements and provide

training to staff. The court will explore and implement more effective ways of handling customer concerns. The court will also designate representatives within the organization to attend community group meetings to exchange ideas and information. The college internship program within the court will be formalized and expanded.

In order to secure internal commitment to and alignment around a common long-term direction, a mentoring program will be established within the court. This program will assist lower level staff in their mobility to upper levels of the organization.

Improving the organizational work culture/environment is an important goal of the court. Under this project, the court will train staff on project management, supervision, technology, and teambuilding/teamwork techniques. The court will continue to strive for the development and implementation of fair and objective hiring/promotional practices to avoid the perception of favoritism.

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PERFORMANCE GOALS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

Goals: Measures	2000-01 Actual	2001-02 Projection	2002-03 Target
Criminal Division:			
Felony	13,102	15,000	15,000
Misdemeanor	73,422	71,500	72,500
Civil Infractions	389	200	200
Traffic and Ordinance:			
Misdemeanor	50,229	57,600	58,500
Civil Infractions	222,988	248,000	251,000
Operating under the Influence of Liquor (OUI/OWI)	1,936	1,800	2,100
Civil Division:			
General	34,845	37,300	38,000
Small Claims	4,688	5,000	5,500
Real Estate	38,892	43,600	44,200
Total Cases	440,491	480,000	487,000

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EXPENDITURES

	2000-01		2002-03		
	Actual	2001-02	Mayor's	Variance	Variance
	Expense	Redbook	Budget Rec		Percent
Salary & Wages	\$ 20,650,870	\$ 20,604,217	\$ 22,030,392	1,426,175	7%
Employee Benefits	7,519,106	8,852,663	10,276,485	1,423,822	16%
Prof/Contractual	4,430,961	3,750,066	4,291,914	541,848	14%
Operating Supplies	395,781	367,800	803,700	435,900	119%
Operating Services	10,453,507	10,798,124	11,359,447	561,323	5%
Capital Equipment	432,245	996,985	232,026	(764,959)	-77%
Capital Outlays	-	500,000	-	(500,000)	-100%
Other Expenses	840,051	885,942	893,483	7,541	1%
TOTAL	\$ 44,722,521	\$ 46,755,797	\$ 49,887,447	\$ 3,131,650	7%
POSITIONS	515	519	508	(11)	-2%

REVENUES

	2000-01		2002-03		
	Actual	2001-02	Mayor's	Variance	Variance
	Revenue	Redbook	Budget Rec		Percent
Fines/Forfeits/Penalties	\$ 9,034,897	\$ 9,012,027	\$ 9,570,000	\$ 557,973	6%
Grants/Shared Taxes	1,328,330	707,306	711,455	4,149	1%
Sales & Charges	13,349,406	9,736,585	7,522,444	(2,214,141)	-23%
TOTAL	\$ 23,712,633	\$ 19,455,918	\$ 17,803,899	\$ (1,652,019)	-8%